Memorandum of Agreement with the CGHS, the main features of which are that they will charge only package rates fixed for the procedure, etc. and provide cashless treatment to the pensioners and Ex-MPs etc.

Private hospitals not empanelled with CGHS are not obliged to charge at CGHS package rates.

No incident of over overcharging by empanelled private hospitals has come to the notice of CGHS.

Upgradation of medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh

†1314. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals for upgradation of Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) medical colleges of Bhopal, Indore, Rewa are pending with his Ministry since 2007; and

(b) if so, the action being taken thereon and by when these would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Under a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges" during Eleventh Five Year Plan, proposals from various State Government Medical Colleges including Madhya Pradesh have been received for starting/ increase of seats in postgraduate courses. The funds are envisaged to be allocated to the medical colleges after the finalization of the scheme.

Anomaly in grade pay of pharmacists

1315. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmacists are still in Pay Band (PB) I grade whereas the employees of similar expertise are placed far above in PB-II or PB-III;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal in the Ministry to recommend PB-II in case of pharmacists to remove this gross anomaly and injustice; and

(d) by when such a proposal will be sent to the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) for consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) and (b) No, the pharmacists in Central Government have been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.